

# Alan Campbell MP

## Community News July 2020



Good afternoon

I do hope that you and your family continue to stay safe and well.

Please find my latest update below.

If you need to get in touch please call 0191 2571927 or  
email [campbellal@parliament.uk](mailto:campbellal@parliament.uk)

You can also find useful information on my website  
at [www.alancampbellmp.co.uk](http://www.alancampbellmp.co.uk) or on Facebook at;

[https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt\\_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI\\_cGhOnsm\\_TvNnVuiYMhiLm](https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARCt_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI_cGhOnsm_TvNnVuiYMhiLm)

I continue to write my fortnightly column for the News Guardian, you can access  
these [here](#).

I hope that you find this update useful.

With all best wishes

Alan Campbell MP

Tynemouth

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## **Update on the Government's recovery plans**



The Chancellor announced new measures this week to address what he called a “profound economic challenge”.

These included:

- A Job Retention Bonus Scheme - a one-off £1,000 payment to employers for each furloughed employee who remains continuously employed until 31 January 2021.
- A VAT reduction from 20% to 5% on the following business activities: any eat-in or hot takeaway food and drinks from restaurants, cafes and pubs, excluding alcohol; all holiday accommodation in hotels, B&Bs, campsites and caravan sites; and, attractions like cinemas, theme parks and zoos. The cut is valid from 15 July until 12 January 2021.
- An increase in the Stamp Duty Land Tax threshold in England and Northern Ireland – increasing the threshold under which no SDLT is paid on the purchase of a main home from £125,000 to £500,000, with immediate effect until 31 March 2021.

Whilst I welcome many of the new measures the real test is whether they will overcome the lack of confidence people have about going out again.

The measures also did not address the situation of the more than 3 million people who so far have fallen through the gaps in current support schemes. I will continue to lobby for more support for them.

We do not yet know the size, shape or nature of the post pandemic and post Brexit economy. In the meantime, we need these measures to work, to protect jobs and create new ones.

You can read more about the Plan for Jobs 2020 update at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-plan-for-jobs-documents/a-plan-for-jobs-2020>

## Changes and updates to support schemes



### Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – flexible furloughing

From 1 July, employers can claim a more flexible grant for any employee they have previously received a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) grant for, and who now returns to work on reduced hours. They can also continue to claim for employees who stay fully furloughed.

Guidance on eligibility and how to claim for flexibly furloughed employees is now available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wages-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

What employers need to do next:

- claim for periods ending on or before 30 June, by 31 July – this is the last date they can make those claims
- agree the hours and shift patterns that they want their employees to work from 1 July, if changing
- pay their employees' wages for the time they're in work and apply for a job retention scheme grant to cover the remainder of their usual hours for which they are still furloughed.

### Self Employment Income Support Scheme

The government has extended the Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS), so eligible constituents will be able to claim a second, and final, taxable grant when the scheme reopens for applications in August. The eligibility criteria for the second grant will be the same as for the first grant and individuals must confirm that their business has been adversely affected by Coronavirus on or after 14 July 2020.

Eligible constituents must apply for the second grant – they will not automatically receive it because they claimed the first grant as they will need to confirm that their business continues to be, or has been newly, adversely affected by Coronavirus on or after 14 July. Individuals do not need to have claimed the first grant to be eligible for the second grant – e.g. their business may have only been adversely affected by Coronavirus after 14 July.

The second taxable grant will be worth 70 per cent of an individual's average monthly trading profits. Like the first SEISS grant, it will be paid out in a single instalment based on three months' worth of profit and capped at £6,570 in total. These grants do not relate to a period of months or seek to compensate or replace lost income over a particular time frame.

Individuals will need to apply online at GOV.UK, confirm they have been affected by Coronavirus and enter their bank details to receive the claim.

The government has also amended the eligibility criteria for SEISS so those that were previously not eligible because they had or adopted a child, or due to their service as a military reservist, may now be able to claim. Newly eligible individuals will be able to claim the first or second grant, or both grants, when applications for the second SEISS grant open in August. These amendments do not affect those that are already eligible for SEISS.

The deadline apply to for the first SEISS grant is 31st July. [You can do so here](#)

### **Continued support for SMEs: Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme**

The UK Government's Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme continues to provide financial support to small and medium-sized employers.

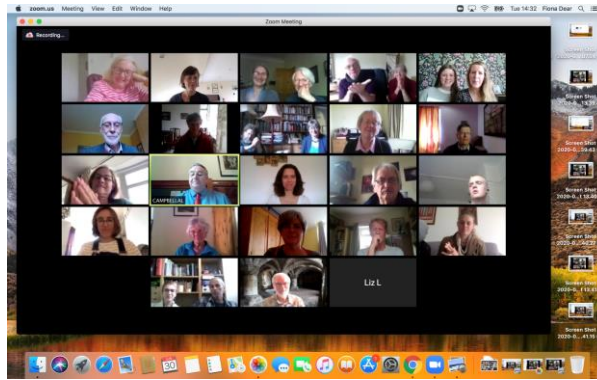
Local employers with fewer than 250 employees, who have paid Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) to employees for coronavirus-related sickness absence could be eligible for support.

The repayment will cover up to two weeks of the applicable rate of SSP. More information on eligibility and how to make a claim is available on [GOV.UK](#).

## **Lockdown Update**

[Many local people have been in touch with me regarding what you can and can't do now that lockdown is being eased. Please visit the government website here for the latest advice.](#)

## **Climate Change Virtual Lobby**



I was proud to be part of the Climate Coalition's The Time is Now first ever virtual lobby of Parliament earlier this month.

More than 14,000 people signed up to virtually lobby their MP and here in Tynemouth I joined local residents at an online event organised by Dr David Golding to discuss a green economic recovery from Coronavirus.

It was a very interesting discussion and I would like to thank David for organising and everyone who took part. A special mention to the Sixth Formers from Whitley Bay High School for their challenging contributions.

It was a timely reminder that although the Chancellor's Green Recovery plan with £3 billion for energy efficiency is interesting, it is less than a third of the amount promised in the Tory Manifesto. As The Time is Now campaigners said, greening the economy needs to be much more ambitious than just some recycled money.

Locally, in North Tyneside, Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn has led the way declaring a climate emergency and committing North Tyneside Council to half its carbon footprint by 2027 and become carbon neutral by 2050.

I am also proud to have signed the Climate Coalition's 'Declaration for a Healthy, Greener, Fairer Tomorrow', to show my commitment to bold action on nature and climate in the build-up to the United Nations climate and biodiversity conferences taking place next year.

To sign the declaration yourself visit:

<https://thetimeisnow.uk/>

## Domestic Abuse Bill

**Useful Domestic Abuse helplines:**

National Domestic Abuse Helpline* 0808 2000 247	Forced Marriage Unit* 020 7008 0151
Local Wearside Women In Need helpline* 0800 066 5555	Karma Nirvana (support for honour based violence and forced marriage) 0800 5999 247
Women's Aid on line chat <a href="http://www.chat.womensaid.org.uk">www.chat.womensaid.org.uk</a>	Victims First Northumbria 0800 011 3116
The Men's Advice Line, for male domestic abuse survivors 0808 801 0327	Samaritans* 116 123
The Mix, free information and support for under 25s in the UK 0808 808 4994	Respect helpline 0808 8024040 or <a href="http://www.respect.uk.net">www.respect.uk.net</a>
National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 999 5428	

\* (24/7)



I am delighted that the Domestic Abuse Bill has been passed by the House of Commons, marking an important step in the Bill becoming law.

The Bill will have a profound and positive impact on millions of victims, survivors and children across the country, and it is testament to the campaigners who have worked so hard to get us to where we are today.

The Domestic Abuse Bill will:

- create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. As part of this definition, children will be explicitly recognised as victims if they witness abuse
- establish a Domestic Abuse Commissioner, to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of local authorities, the justice system and other statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse
- provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order, which will prevent perpetrators from contacting their victims, as well as force them to take positive steps to change their behaviour, e.g. seeking mental health support
- place a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation
- prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in courts in England and Wales
- create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts (for example, to enable them to give evidence via a video link)

I would also like to thank Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness for the work she has done locally in highlighting this issue.

## **Renewable energy boost for Port of Tyne**



I recently attended a virtual meeting hosted by Port of Tyne to introduce Equinor UK - the company that is constructing its operations and maintenance base for its Dogger Bank wind farm project at the Port's base in South Shields.

The project is a joint venture between SSE Renewables and Equinor, who will operate the wind farm from its North East base for the lifetime of the project – at least 25 years.

I heard how Equinor can work with local stakeholders to bring economic and shared value to the area. The multi-million pound facility will create at least 200 Jobs and many more supply chain opportunities.

## Anti-Social Behaviour Update



At the time of my last Community News there had been a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour at the coast. I shared the concerns of residents and raised these concerns directly with North Tyneside Council and Northumbria Police.

Following discussions with the Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn, I can now report that the local authority has increased the number of bin collections to on average 8-10 collections a day and is looking in particular at the start of the day and obviously the end of the day. They are increasing the number of bins and relocating some. More wardens and members of the community protection teams have been deployed and part of their work is tackling littering. If that includes on the spot fines then so be it. The local authority is also working on signage and a more robust social media messaging campaign.

In terms of the police, more officers have been deployed, including on foot, in cars and on horses, in order to give a high visible presence. The Police Metro Unit is deployed and with more officers around Metro Stations the intention is to give a clear warning of a police presence. The Metro should be alcohol free and there is, I am advised, a Public Spaces Protection Order along the Coast which gives additional powers to the police. I have strongly urged the police to use whichever of those powers they need.

There is also an issue about alcohol sales. If there is a view across the community that alcohol should not be allowed on the beach – and there appears to be – then the necessary steps should be taken at least on a temporary basis. Retailers can voluntarily restrict sales; if they choose not to then the powers are there to make them. The police also have at their disposal Dispersal Orders which I have urged them to use and which I expect to see more of.

The fact is however that there are too few police officers overall and even after accessing additional Violent Crime Reduction funding and cancelling leave and paying for overtime resources remain thinly stretched. I have taken this up with the Home Office, recently writing to the Home Secretary to call for the Government to

provide the financial resources necessary for any forces that need further resources as lockdown eases. I will continue to raise these matters directly with the Home Secretary. Clearly, seaside and coastal towns are bearing the brunt of this problem and if anything the number of domestic visitors is likely to increase over the summer.

The situation will be reviewed regularly to see what is working and what more needs to be done. I will continue to monitor the situation and I will continue to keep you updated.

## Seaside and Coastal Towns Plan



Seaside and coastal towns are an important part of our nation's story, heritage and economy. They can be great places to live and to work but also to visit for daily trips, short breaks or longer holidays. Yet seaside and coastal towns will be amongst the worst hit by the pandemic and the economic recession likely to follow. As we emerge from the pandemic our country will have been changed in many ways and though that will mean new challenges it will also offer new opportunities. In light of this I have recently written to the Secretary of State calling for a need a New Deal for seaside and coastal towns.

I have highlighted a number of issues including:

- Before COVID-19 coastal tourism was worth around £13 billion. For England alone economic loss, assuming an early reopening, will be around £8 billion with more than 100,000 jobs at risk. One in five jobs in Tynemouth is dependent upon tourism and hospitality. Though policies like the furlough scheme are very welcome the fact is some businesses will not reopen.
- Many seaside and coastal towns have experienced some form of regeneration in recent times including my own. This reflects the decision taken by the previous Labour Government to ensure that the needs of seaside and coastal towns were at the heart of policies across Government. In addition, that Government created a fund for seaside regeneration which to their credit Conservative and Conservative led Governments since 2010 continued and developed.
- The current fund, the Coastal Communities Fund needs to continue. Visitors will only return to seaside resorts if they are attractive environments providing services, products and attractions for people. The Government must also review its decision to open up the Coastal Communities Fund for coastal and fishing communities, in need of constant investment and



regeneration. That is not to say there should not be investment in fishing communities, on the contrary they need more not less investment. But the Coastal Communities Fund must not be used to plug the gaps left by the European Fisheries Fund which has been worth at least half the investment in fishing ports and communities to date. The Treasury must guarantee that any loss of access to the EFF resources is made up from a direct fund.

- Many coastal communities already have pockets of deprivation and many still have a high number of houses of multiple occupation. The potential closure of hotels and guest houses due to the pandemic must not be seen, as it has been in the past, as an opportunity to house dispossessed families or those exiting the penal system.
- Many seaside and coastal businesses have already adapted to changing circumstances resulting ultimately from the rise of the cheap foreign holiday. Business support has been important and will be vital going forward. In particular, the seaside economy needs to reduce the element of seasonality, with our seaside towns being destinations all year round.
- An alliance including the National Coastal Tourism Academy, Coastal Communities Alliance, Natural England and others have put forward a National Plan for seaside and coastal communities.
- Finally, if there is to be a summer or even later season this year and if seaside towns are to respond positively to the opportunities for domestic tourism amidst the uncertainty of leaving the European Union, then coastal communities need to be properly resourced. The funding settlement for the police, health services and local authority services must reflect the increased demand which coastal areas experience as a result from the influx of visitors particularly in summer months.

Coastal communities as a result of the pandemic are facing huge challenges. Many are looking first to survive and then to recover. The Government must stand behind those communities in these difficult times and going forward.

## Congratulations to the Jam Jar Cinema



On a lighter note I would like to offer my congratulations to the Jam Jar Cinema in Whitley Bay on winning the national UK Small Business of the year award.

The Jam Jar Cinema has become a much loved local institution and it is brilliant to see them being recognised on a national stage.

Well done to Dan and the entire team.

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